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« India, Russia and the Eighteenth-Century Transformation of the Central Asian Caravan Trade ». *JESHO*, 42, 4 (1999), pp. 519-548.

Rudi Matthee



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- ¹ This wide-ranging article mounts a forceful attack against the traditional notion of 18th century Central Asia as a culturally stagnant and economically insignificant and peripheral region. Focusing on the north-south axis, the author first shows how even in the « chaotic » 18th century Central Asia continued to provide huge numbers of horses to the subcontinent while, in exchange, India flooded Central Asia with its renowned textiles. Russia, in turn, under Tsar Peter I made efforts to divert the trade through Astrakhan to the overland routes through Central Asia through the frontier town of Orenburg. This shift led to a realignment in the economic fortunes of Central Asian cities. Some of these underwent a process of deurbanization, but this must not be equated with decline, for the loss of population of one center implied the gain of another. While Bokhara lost people, parts of the Farghaneh valley thrived.

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Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qâjârs

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